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A FAMILY BIPODDYSEY *by Glen Phillips*

To my symbiotic correlates,
my mates of late of my bioregion,
all my playful participants
in our *home-land* or biopatch, I
say welcome. He who celebrates
the facts of life, our cheek-by-jowl
intrepid inter-existence, will not
be lost. Forward we must go folks:
fellow mouth-mutating microbes,
or gut instinctual dwellers of bowel
tracts, even our skin-flake feeders
(not corn-flakes) are fellow travellers,
all in the jolly biosphere together
right up to here. Or was it there?
Sometimes I lose track of the bleeders,
rellies, mates, the whole damn family
in this welter of companionable
lives (and that includes the grass
on which we tread). Yet we swarm
on, offspring gathered at the knee,
waiting some great Gaiadeity.

Glen Phillips was born in Western Australia in 1936, in the remote gold-mining town of Southern Cross. Glen was brought up mainly in outback wheatbelt areas where he developed not only a strong identification with the Australian landscape but an early love of Australian literature. His poetry has been featured on national radio and television. Glen's short stories also have been published in Australia and overseas. Glen is an Honorary Professor at Edith Cowan University, Perth and Director of the University's International Centre for Landscape and Language.